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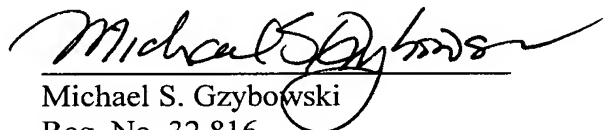
By the present Preliminary Amendment, the specification and claim have been revised to incorporate changes made to the international application prior to national phase entry and to more clearly describe applicants' invention in accordance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Care has been taken so as to avoid the addition of new matter in the specification and claims.

Entry of the present Preliminary Amendment prior to the examination of the application is respectfully requested.

In the event applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, applicants hereby petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Changes Made to Specification Paragraphs

The first full paragraph on page 2 has been amended as follows:

It is [a principal] an object of this invention to [improve the composite sheet of prior art and] provide a composite sheet [being] that is free from generation of fibrous waste and [offering] offers a comfortable touch.

The second full paragraph on page 2 has been amended as follows:

[The object set forth above is achieved, according to this invention, by a] The breathable liquid-impervious composite sheet [comprising] according to the present invention comprises a breathable liquid-impervious sheet made of thermoplastic synthetic resin [and] that is covered with thermoplastic synthetic fibers. [, the breathable liquid-impervious composite sheet being characterized by that the] The synthetic fibers are continuous fibers. [, the] The sheet made of synthetic resin has its opposite surfaces covered with the continuous fibers and the sheet made of synthetic resin is intermittently bonded to the continuous fibers on the opposite surfaces.

The first full paragraph on page 3 has been amended as follows:

[According to one preferred embodiment of this invention, the] The sheet made of synthetic resin is [selected from a film made of thermoplastic synthetic resin and a nonwoven fabric made of thermoplastic synthetic fiber. According to another preferred embodiment of this invention, the breathable liquid-impervious composite sheet has the] an air-permeable and liquid-impervious assembly of thermoplastic fibers, the assembly having a maximum breathability of 200 sec/100 cc as measured in accordance with the method B of JIS (Japanese Industrial

Standards) L 1096 and a water resistance of at least 300 mm as measured in accordance with the method A of JIS L 1092.

The paragraph beginning on page 4 and continuing on page 5 has been amended as follows:

The intermediate layer 3 is formed by a breathable liquid-impervious sheet made of thermoplastic synthetic resin, for example, stretched film 8 made of thermoplastic synthetic resin such as polyethylene. The stretched film 8 has a thickness of 0.01 - 0.1 mm and [containing] contains inorganic filler grains of calcium carbonate or barium sulfate. The intermediate layer 3 may be formed also [by] from a fibrous assembly such as a melt blown nonwoven fabric made of polypropylene or the like. Breathable liquid-impervious nature of the intermediate layer 3 can be quantitatively expressed by breathability and water resistance. Preferably, the intermediate layer 3 has the maximum breathability of 200 sec/100 cc as measured in accordance with the [method] method B of JIS L 1096 and a water resistance of at least 300 mm as measured in accordance with the method A of JIS L 1092.

Changes Made to Claims

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A breathable liquid-impervious composite sheet comprising:
a breathable liquid-impervious sheet [made] having opposite surfaces and comprising an air-pervious and liquid-impervious assembly of thermoplastic synthetic resin; and
[and covered with] thermoplastic synthetic [fibers,] fibers covering said opposite surfaces of said breathable liquid-impervious [composite sheet being characterized by that] sheet,
said thermoplastic synthetic fibers [are] comprising continuous fibers,

[said sheet made of synthetic resin has its opposite surfaces that are covered with said continuous fibers and]

said breathable liquid-impervious sheet [made of synthetic resin is] being intermittently bonded to said continuous thermoplastic synthetic fibers on said opposite [surfaces.] surfaces,
said breathable liquid-impervious sheet having a maximum breathability of about 200 sec/100 cc, and a water resistance of at least about 300 mm.

Claim 2 has been deleted.

Claim 3 has been deleted.

Claim 4 has been added as follows:

4. The breathable liquid-impervious composite sheet according to claim 1, wherein said continuous thermoplastic synthetic fibers comprise layers that have a breathability that is equal to a breathability of said breathable liquid-impervious sheet .

Claim 5 has been added as follows:

5. The breathable liquid-impervious composite sheet according to claim 1, wherein said continuous thermoplastic synthetic fibers comprise layers that have a breathability that is greater than a breathability of said breathable liquid-impervious sheet .

Claim 6 has been added as follows:

6. The breathable liquid-impervious composite sheet according to claim 1, wherein said continuous thermoplastic synthetic fibers have a basis weight of about 10 to about 100 g/m².

Claim 7 has been added as follows:

7. The breathable liquid-impervious composite sheet according to claim 1, wherein said continuous thermoplastic synthetic fibers are sealed together at intersections thereof.

Claim 8 has been added as follows:

8. The breathable liquid-impervious composite sheet according to claim 1, wherein said breathable liquid-impervious sheet is intermittently bonded to said continuous thermoplastic synthetic fibers at discrete bond regions.

Claim 9 has been added as follows:

9. The breathable liquid-impervious composite sheet according to claim 8, wherein the each of the discrete bond regions comprises an area of about 0.5 to about 10 mm².

Claim 10 has been added as follows:

10. The breathable liquid-impervious composite sheet according to claim 8, wherein a total area of all of the discrete bond regions comprises about 1 to about 30% of a total area of the composite sheet.